

ABSTRACT

A continuously variable transmission ("CVT") is disclosed. The CVT includes a drive pulley adapted to connect to a crankshaft of an engine. The drive pulley has inner and outer halves with belt engagement surfaces to engage the sides of the belt. The drive pulley of the CVT also includes a slide sleeve disposed on the shaft adapted to engage an inner side of a belt. The inner and outer halves of the drive pulley are biased apart from one another by a spring. The slide sleeve engages the belt when the belt is stationary or traveling at low speeds. The driven pulley includes inner and outer halves with belt engagement surfaces. The two halves are biased into contact with one another. A connector connects the inner half to the outer half. In addition, a pneumatically-actuated driven pulley is described together with a CVT incorporating same.